

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 6076

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, CVIS, SREF, RO
SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE INA

REF: BUCHAREST 5577

1. GENE KRIZEK AND I HAD A VERY LONG TALK WITH CHAIRMAN EILBERG AND COMMITTEE STAFF MEMBERS CLINE AND ENDRES AUGUST 12 IN WHICH WE LOOKED AGAIN AT THE VARIOUS OPTIONS FOR GETTING THOSE ROMANIANS WHO DO NOT QUALIFY FOR PREFERENCE STATUS TO THE STATES IN THE MOST DIRECT WAY. OUR JOINT CONCLUSION: A TWO-PRONGED APPROACH -- FIRST OF ALL BY ENSURING A LONGER TERM, STABLE SOLUTION THROUGH AMENDMENT OF THE INA, SECONDLY BY SEEKING ADMINISTRATIVE WAYS IN THE SHORT TERM TO AMELIORATE THE PROBLEM.

2. ON THE FIRST SCORE, EILBERG ASKED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL REACH HIM VERY SHORTLY AFTER CONGRESS RECONVENES SEPTEMBER 6. HIS PLAN WOULD BE TO ATTACH THE AMENDMENT TO HIS BILL IN COMMITTEE WHERE HE IS CONFIDENT HE CAN WIN SUPPORT AND THEN BRING HIS BILL TO THE FLOOR IN A WAY THAT WILL ENSURE ITS PASSAGE BY THE FULL HOUSE WITHOUT FURTHER AMENDMENTS. THE BILL WILL BE ONE OF THE FIRST ORDERS OF COMMITTEE BUSINESS AFTER THE RECESS WHICH IS WHY HE STRESSED WE NEEDED TO GET OUR AMENDMENT LANGUAGE TO HIM IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

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3. AS TO FLOOR ACTION IN THE HOUSE, UNDER PRESENT LEADERSHIP SCHEDULING, THE BILL MAY NOT BE TAKEN UP UNTIL JANUARY ALTHOUGH EILBERG HAS SOME HOPE HE CAN GET IT CONSIDERED BEFORE CONGRESS ADJOURNS AS A PIECE OF EMERGENCY LEGISLATION. WHEN I ASKED HIM ABOUT CHANCES IN THE SENATE, HE SAID HE HESITATED TO PREDICT HOW

SENATOR EASTLAND WOULD MOVE, BUT HE SAID HE IS DETERMINED TO MAKE IT HARD FOR THE SENATE TO HOLD UP ACTION ON HIS BILL.

4. ON INTERIM MEASURES, EILBERG AND HIS STAFF ARE CONVINCED THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS MORE LEEWAY ON ALLOCATION OF NON-PREFERENCE NUMBERS THAN IT IS CURRENTLY USING. HE THEREFORE INTENDS TO WRITE THE SECRETARY URGING THAT ADMINISTRATIVE WAYS BE FOUND TO GIVE PRIORITY TO ROMANIAN CASES WHERE VISA NUMBERS ARE NOT IMMEDIATELY

AVAILABLE.

5. THIS IS THE SECOND TALK I HAVE HAD WITH EILBERG AND HIS STAFF. HE VERY MUCH SHARES MY CONCERN THAT WE CARRY OUT THE OBLIGATION WE HAVE INCURRED TO HELP ROMANIANS WHOM THIS REGIME LETS GO AT OUR URGING GET TO THE STATES AS DIRECTLY AND SIMPLY AS POSSIBLE. I CANNOT URGE MYSELF TOO STRONGLY THAT WE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIS WILLINGNESS TO ADD AN AMENDMENT TO HIS BILL BY PROVIDING LANGUAGE TO HIM ON TIME IN EARLY SEPTEMBER AND, LIKEWISE, FOR THE SHORT RUN, THAT WE EXPLORE THOROUGHLY THE SUGGESTIONS HE WILL MAKE IN HIS LETTER TO THE SECRETARY.

6. CONSEQUENTLY, SINCE THE SECRETARY HAS RETURNED FROM
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HIS MIDDLE EAST TRIP I ASK THAT THE INA AMENDMENT PROPOSED BE GOTTEN TO HIM NOW FOR HIS APPROVAL AND OMB CONCURRENCE IN TURN BE OBTAINED IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS SO WE CAN MEET EILBERG'S REQUEST IN TIME. BARNES

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